



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

***CONFEDERATE VETERAN*
RECORDS, 1904-1941**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Confederate veteran (Nashville, Tenn.)

Inclusive Dates:

1904-1941, bulk 1911-1932

Scope & Content:

These records of the *Confederate Veteran* magazine contains accounts, a biographical sketch of the magazine's founder, S. A. Cunningham, a resolution in Cunningham's honor, by-laws and minutes of the magazine trustees, a contract with the Publishers Adjusting Association, and a list of the Cunningham Memorial Committee members and contributors to the Cunningham Memorial Fund. Of special note is a copy of "Key Words," a puzzle that was used by the Confederate War Department and given to an officer to decipher in 1863. The collection also contains a reprint of sheet music, "Dixie's Land," by Daniel Decatur Emmett.

Correspondence and essays make up the majority of the collection. The correspondence spans the years 1904-1932 and consists of letters to the editor and to Mrs. E. D. (Edith Drake) Pope, who assumed editorial duties after Cunningham's death in 1913. The essays could possibly be submissions to the *Confederate Veteran*, and several are marked with editing notes. Lastly, the series includes five black and white photos of the Civil War prison on Johnson's Island, Ohio, ca. 1925. Pictured are the Confederate Soldiers' Cemetery, blockhouse, gate, and Sandusky Bay.

Physical Description/Extent:

0.5 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

Ac. No. 2011-020

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

I-C-1

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

Nashville-based *Confederate Veteran* magazine was founded in 1893 by Sumner Archibald Cunningham, who also edited it. The monthly magazine honoring the Confederate soldier was originally designed to inform patrons on the status of the Jefferson Davis Monument fund that Cunningham spearheaded. Eventually, it evolved into a clearinghouse for information related to events and rituals honoring Confederate traditions such as reunions, battle re-enactments, and the creation of granite memorials. The magazine also reported on local and regional activities of the United Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy. Cunningham's magazine played its most important role as a mouthpiece for reminiscences of rank-and-file soldiers. It stood in sharp contrast to the Southern Historical Society Papers edited by J. William Jones in Virginia, which stressed grand debates about strategy and command-level war aims.

Charging a subscription rate of only one dollar per year, Cunningham made his monthly available to a wide audience. In the early years, however, *Confederate Veteran* suffered from publication problems including poor paper quality, messy ink, dark photographs, and limited advertising. The editor eventually overcame these problems, and by 1904 his magazine boasted one of the largest magazine subscription lists in the turn-of-the-century South with a readership of 22,000. A majority of subscribers hailed from the western portion of the former Confederacy. The physical format of the magazine ranged from a modest twenty-four-page layout to special souvenir numbers of sixty-four pages.

Confederate Veteran was an outstanding example of personal journalism, closely reflecting the opinions and prejudices of its proprietor. In one case, Cunningham enveloped the magazine in a fierce rivalry that unfolded between several southern cities to build the "Battle Abbey," a planned museum of Confederate war relics patterned after Westminster Abbey in Great Britain. Cunningham lobbied on the editor's page on behalf of a Nashville site. In 1901, his libelous statements against other contenders led to bitter litigation that nearly destroyed the monthly. On a more positive note, Cunningham broadcast the forgotten story of Sam Davis, "the boy hero of the Confederacy." His diligent effort to educate Tennesseans on Davis's exploits led to the erection of a monument on Nashville's Capitol Hill in 1909. The statue was created by George Julian Zolnay, known as the "Sculptor of the Confederacy." Cunningham considered the Davis memorial the crowning glory of his professional career.

After Cunningham's death in 1913, his secretary, Edith Drake Pope assumed the editorial duties and kept *Confederate Veteran* operational until 1932. Today, the magazine stands as an invaluable resource to professional historians and genealogists studying the Civil War and the Lost Cause.

Source: *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

This collection is arranged alphabetically by document type.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

None

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

While TSLA houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Cunningham, Sumner Archibald, 1843-1913
Emmett, Daniel Decatur, 1815-1904
Pope, Edith Drake, 1869-1947

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Publishers Adjusting Association -- Records and correspondence
Johnson Island Prison -- Photographs

Subjects:

Confederate veteran (Nashville, Tenn.)
Journalism -- Editing
Periodicals -- Publishing
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Geographic Names:

Confederate States of America -- History -- Periodicals

Document Types:

Accounts
Biographies
By-laws (administrative records)
Contracts
Correspondence
Essays
Minutes
Photographs
Resolutions (administrative records)
Sheet music
Subscriptions
Word and number puzzles and games

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Confederate Veteran Records, 1904-1941, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Kimberly Wires in July 2012. Only duplicates were removed.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/2011-020.pdf>

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Accounts	1913	1	1
Biographical Sketch -- Cunningham, S. A.	undated	1	2
By-Laws -- Trustees of the Confederate Veterans	undated	1	3
Contract -- Publishers Adjusting Association	1908	1	4
Correspondence -- Appleton-Smith	1907-1932	1	5
Correspondence -- Incoming -- Mrs. E. D. Pope	1904-1932	1	6
Correspondence -- Letters to the Editor	1912-1932	1	7
Correspondence -- Unidentified	1909-1932	1	8
Cunningham Memorial Fund	undated	1	9
Essays	1911-1941	1	10
Essays	undated	1	11
Essays	undated	1	12
Lists	undated	1	13
Minutes -- Trustees of the <i>Confederate Veteran</i>	undated	1	14
Photographs -- Johnson's Island, Ohio	ca. 1925	1	15
Puzzle -- Key Words	undated	1	16
Resolution -- Cunningham, S. A.	1918	1	17
Sheet Music -- "Dixie's Land" by Daniel Decatur Emmett (Reprint)	undated	1	18
Subscriptions	1932-1933	1	19